

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

Historic Schwanbeck's Store Cleanup
NEPA Number DOI- BLM-AZ-C030-2014-0041-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Lake Havasu Field Office

Proposed Action Title: National Public Lands Day 2014 Event; Historic Schwanbeck's Store Cleanup

Location of Proposed Action: San Bernardino County, CA T02N, R26E, Section: 35

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) has proposed to conduct a site cleanup of Historic Schwanbeck's Store on September 27, 2014 from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Schwanbeck's Store is a historic stop along the Parker Dam Rd. Backcountry Byway (See Exhibit 1). The site features building remains dating back to the 1930's, interpretive panels, and post and cable fencing.

Schwanbeck's Store has been subject to graffiti, accumulation of debris, and heavy weathering. Event activities would include graffiti removal, brush and tree trimming, debris and trash removal, sign installation, and post and cable repair.

The Arizona Site Stewards would partner with the LHFO and provide a cultural history booth at the event to educate volunteers on local history.

The event would be open to the public and advertised in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, Parker, Arizona and at the BLM concessions resorts located on Parker Dam Road.

Event participants would park at Crossroads Campground and would be shuttled to the site by LHFO staff. One portable toilet and one 40 yard roll off dumpster would be placed on pre-disturbed lands for the day of the event. All participants would be required to attend a brief safety meeting and sign volunteer agreements prior to event start.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan*

Date Approved/Amended: May, 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

CL-1. Preserve and protect significant cultural resource and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

CL-6 Manage Schwanbeck's Store as a Public Use site and maintain existing interpretive panels.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, J.10 – Removal of structures and materials of non-historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences and buildings, including those built in trespass, and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (See Attachment 1), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the proposal to perform routine maintenance at the Schwanbeck's Store site with the assistance of the Arizona Site Stewards and local volunteers and have determined that the project design features identified within the document along with the attached stipulations will eliminate any potential for significant impacts to the environment.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: \s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated by A. Deeds **Date:** 09/3/2014
Kimber Liebhauser
Field Manager
Lake Havasu Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lake Havasu Field Office 2610 Sweetwater Ave. Lake Havasu City, AZ, 86406, 928-505-1216

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 2.

Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary Circumstances	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No. A safety briefing would be provided to volunteers prior to project commencement to protect public health and safety as well as prevent environmental damage on public lands. The safety session would concentrate on the hazards of picking up sharp items, heavy objects, and using hand tools. The talk would also provide wildlife awareness information such as tortoise handling protocol and snake safety procedures.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988) national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No. See project mitigation measures for cultural, historic, and environmental resources. The project would increase visitor usability and enjoyment of the historic site.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No. See project mitigation measures for environmental resources. There are no known controversial environmental efforts or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources within the project area.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No. A safety briefing would be provided to volunteers prior to project commencement to protect public health and safety as well as prevent environmental damage on public lands. The safety session would concentrate on the hazards of picking up sharp items, heavy objects, and using hand tools. The talk would also provide wildlife awareness information and snake safety procedures.
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No. Site maintenance of the project area is the responsibility of LHFO. Maintenance and cultural staff have worked together in the past to perform cleanups of a similar nature without volunteer assistance. The scope of the proposed action is comparable to past maintenance actions and will not impact future actions or continued site maintenance.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No. See project mitigation measures for environmental resources. The proposed project has no direct relationship to other actions with

	individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No. There are no properties listed nor eligible for listing within the project area.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No. While the Mojave Desert Tortoise is listed as a Threatened Species surrounding the project area, the site is within a heavily visited, pre-disturbed area that is not considered critical habitat for the species.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No. See project mitigation measures for cultural resources.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No. The removal of organic debris and non-historic construction materials would have no effect on low income or minority populations.
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	No. The project area is bordered by a developed concessions facility and a semi-primitive campground. There were no known sacred sites within or surrounding the project area and there will not be limited access to public lands for the duration of the event.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No. As per project mitigation measures, all vehicle travel would be restricted to paved and maintained roads unless otherwise authorized by the BLM and monitored by Arizona Site Stewards.

Approval and Decision

Attachment 2

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Recreation and Operations Branch

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Recreation and Operations Branch

Review: We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.

Prepared by: \s\Amanda Deeds Authenticated by A. Deeds
Amanda Deeds, Project Lead
Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 09/3/2014

Reviewed by: \s\Jason West Authenticated by A. Deeds
Jason West
Assistant Field Manager
Recreation and Operations Branch

Date: 09/3/2014

Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) has proposed to conduct a site cleanup of Historic Schwanbeck's Store on September 27, 2014 from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Schwanbeck's Store is a historic stop along the Parker Dam Rd. Backcountry Byway (See Exhibit 1). The site features building remains dating back to the 1930's, interpretive panels, and post and cable fencing.

Schwanbeck's has been subject to graffiti, accumulation of debris, and heavy weathering. Event activities will include graffiti removal, brush and tree trimming, debris and trash removal, sign installation, and post and cable repair.

The Arizona Site Stewards would partner with the LHFO and provide a cultural history booth at the event to educate volunteers on local history.

The event will be open to the public and advertised in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, Parker, Arizona and at the BLM concessions resorts located on Parker Dam Road.

Event participants would park at Crossroads Campground and would be shuttled to the site by LHFO staff. One portable toilet and one 40 yard roll off dumpster would be placed on pre-disturbed lands for the day of the event. All participants would be required to attend a brief safety meeting and sign volunteer agreements prior to event start.

Mitigation Measures:

- Disturbance will be limited to those areas previously disturbed.
- The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Lake Havasu Field Manager (or designated representative) any cultural resources (prehistoric/historic sites or objects) and/or paleontological resources (fossils) encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
- The BLM would be immediately notified in the event that human remains are encountered during any activities associated with this clean-up.
- No off-road driving to retrieve any items for disposal unless authorized by the BLM and monitored by a qualified site steward or BLM trained Para-archaeologist. (A qualified site steward is a person currently active in the Arizona Site Steward program and is able to recognize an archaeological site in the field).
- Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy desert tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Any sightings of desert tortoise shall be immediately reported to the LHFO, Wildlife Biologist at (928) 505-1200. If a desert tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until the desert tortoise moves out of harm's way on its own accord.
- During construction activities, the area near and under all vehicles shall be inspected for desert tortoise before being moved.
- If any species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, are encountered during the activities, work will stop immediately. Immediate notification of the discovery shall be made to the BLM Wildlife Biologist at (928) 505-1200. The activity may resume only after U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized a continuance.
- Plant species (all cactus, ocotillo and native trees) shall be avoided; if they cannot be avoided they will be salvaged and replanted after construction within the right-of-way boundaries or another location determined by the LHFO Wildlife Biologist. The holder shall report all these species destroyed or damaged to the LHFO Wildlife Biologist.
- In the event hazardous materials are encountered during any activities associated with this clean-up, all activity would cease with the hazardous material and a BLM Law Enforcement Ranger would be contacted immediately.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Approved By: \s\Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated by A. Deeds **Date:** 09/3/2014

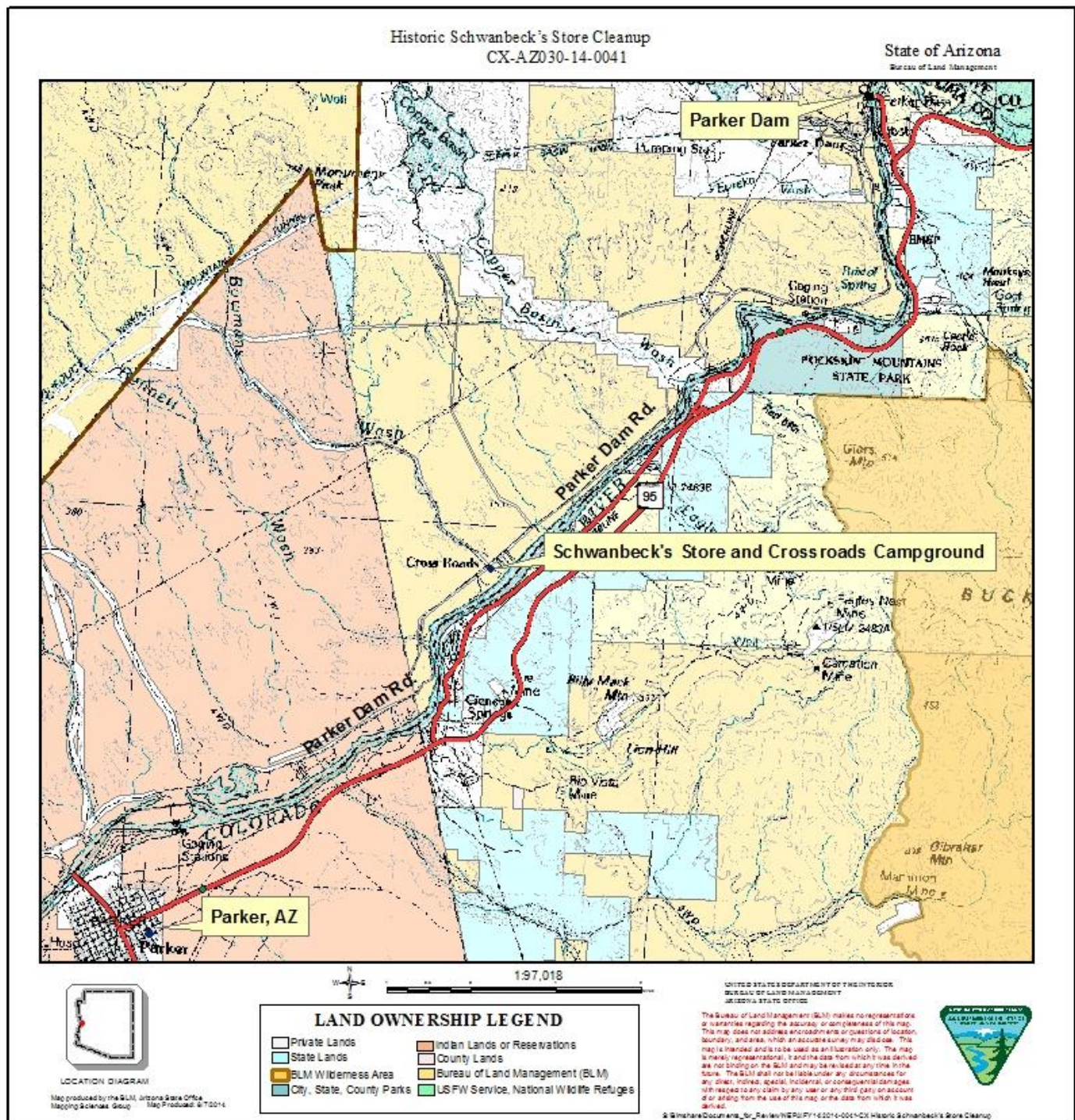
Kimber Liebhauser
Field Manager
Lake Havasu Field Office

Exhibits:

- 1. Map**
- 2. Photos**

Exhibits:

1. Project Area Map:



2. Photos:

Photo 1. Historic Schwanbeck's Store



Photo 2. Organic Debris to Be Removed



Photo 3. Construction Materials to Be Removed



Photo 4. Post and Cable Barrier and Sign To Be Repaired

